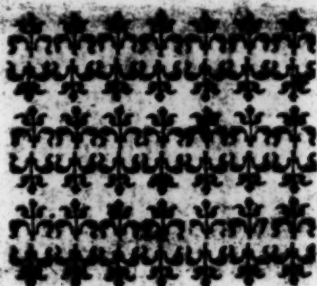


PRINCE
R V P E R T
HIS
DECLARATION.



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JUNE 1, 1916

(1)
PRINCE RUPERT

His

DECLARATION.

IT will seem strange (no doubt) to see me in print, my known disposition being so contrary to this scribling age; and sure I had not put my self upon a Declaration if in common prudence I could have done otherwise.

I need not tell the world (for it is too well known) what malicious lying Pamphlets are printed against mee almost every morning, whereby those busie men strive to render me as odious as they would have me, against whom doubtlesse I had sooner declared, but that I well knew this mutinous lying spirit would be easily convinced, but never silenced, which, as it ceaseth at no time, so it spares no person. And this was too manifest to me, by those bold, odious, and impossible untruths forged against His sacred Majestie, their own King and Sovereigne (and my Gracious and Royall Uncle) who is onely guilty of this, that he is too good to be their King; and to deale clearly, this was it furnished me with sufficient patience, thinking it but reasonable, that I should be slandered as well as His Majestie.

But since it hath pleased my Lord *Wharton* to tell the whole City of *London* openly at Guild-hall, and since to tell it all the world in print, that one great cause of their preservation at *Edge-hill*, was the barbarousnesse and inhumanity of Prince *Rupert* and his Troopers, that we spared neither man, woman, nor child, and the thing which we aime at is pillage and plundering, and the way which we would come by it is murthering and destroying, since such a charge as this comes from such a mouth, I hold my self bound in honour to speak and tell that Lord, that as much of his speech as concernes mee, is no truer then the rest of it, which for the most part is as false as any thing that hath been spoken or printed in

London these two years : and had I known his Lordships intention, I would have asked his reason either before or now at *Keinton*, if his Lordship had but stayed so long as to be asked the question.

But me thinks I hear the credulous people say, What? was not the Kings Standard rescued from them by force? were there so many as 20. of our men killed by all the Kings Cannons? was not our right wing long under the power of their Canons, so as some 17. shot of Canon shot against them, and yet not a man of ours so much as hurt? Nay, were there not 3000. slain of the Kings Army, and but 300. of ours? If these abominable untruths (with many more like them in his Lordships speech) be all true, then shall he freely charge me with barbarousnesse and inhumanitie; but if these be most grosse falsities (as many thousand worthy Gentlemen will take their oathes they are) then I must professe I am sorry that any Baron of the English Nation should utter such fowl untruths, to deceive the poore abused Citizens of *London* with false reports, and so slander us. Twas ever my opinion, that no valiant man would speak a known untruth; nor can I blame his Lordship or any others faint-heartednesse in so bad a cause as theirs is, which doubtlesse is the reason why such Noblemen and Gentry in His Majesties Army, who hitherto had spent all their daies in peace could then fight so valiantly *ex tempore*, not valuing their lives, and forgetting their dearest relations; so as our enemies in their hackney railing Pamphlets were forced to say, *The Cavaliers* (to give the Devil his due) *fought very valiantly*. And indeed, had they not shewed rather too much valour, our enemies had had lesse bottome whereon to found any untruths, whereof I take this relation to be one of their master-pieces of forgeries: for that they slew as many of ours, as we did of theirs, is as true, as that they beat us at *Sherbourn Castle* and at *Worcester*.

Now for barbarousnesse and inhumanity to women and children, wherewith his Lordship and those impudent unpunished papers cried daily in the streets do continually slander
us,

us, I must here professe, that I take that man to be no Souldier or Gentleman, that will strike (much lesse kill) a woman or a child, if it be in his power to doe the contrary : And I openly dare the most valiant and quick-fighted of that lying Faction, to name the time, the person, or the house, where any child or woman lost so much as a hair from their head by me, or any of our souldiers. In a battell, where two Armies fight, many one hath unfortunately killed his dearest friend, very often those whom willingly he would otherwise have spared ; and whether any woman or child were killed in this fight is more then I can justly say : I am sorry if there were. I speak not how wilfully barbarous their souldiers were to the Countesse *Rivers*, to the Lady *Lucas* in *Essex*, and likewise to the like persons of quality in *Kent*, and other places : Whom have we ever punished for speaking against us, as they most Jewishly whipped to death a Citizen of *London*, for saying no more then what was included in His Majesties Proclamation. But since they name plundering, whose monies ? nay, whose Armes have we taken away ; unlesse theirs, who actually had, or at least declared they would use them against His Majesties Army ? And for that little cloth borrowed for our souldiers (wherewith their Pamphlets make such a noise) His Majesty by Gods help will see it better paid for, then any thing they have taken up on *publick Faith*. What house have we ransacked, as they did the Earle of *Northampton* ? mangling and cutting in pieces rich chaires, beds, stools and hangings ; drinking as much and as long as they were able, then letting the rest run out upon the floore, when as the very Earle of *Essex* his house at *Chartley* suffered not the least damage by us. What Churches have we defaced, as they did at *Canterbury*, *Oxford*, *Worcester*, and many other places : whose pockets have we pickt ever to the value of three pence, under pretence of searching for letters, as they lately did in *Glocestershire*, and particularly this last week at *Windsor* and *Wybridge* ? Is it not their usuall practice first to plunder a mans house of all plate and monies, and then imprison him.

as a Delinquent, for no other fault, but because he stood loyall to his Prince; as if it were too little to take a mans estate, unlesse also they rob him of his innocence? Have they not now stuffed all the prisons in London with Earles, Lords, Bishops, Judges and Knights, Masters of Colledges, Lawyers and Gentlemen of all conditions and Counties? for what (God knowes) they themselves know not: insomuch as now they are enforced to find out new prisons for Knights, Aldermen, and substantiall Citizens of London, who are now thrust in thither onely because they are suspected to love their King? Have they not by imprisonment or threats muzzled the mouthes of the most grave and learnedst Preachers of London: witnesse Doctour *Feally*, Doctour *Hayward*, Doctour *Holdsworth*, Master *Shute*, Master *Squire*, Master *Griffith*, and many others (for so I am informed these men are) because they preach that which their conscience tells them is the known truth. And who are countenanced but ignorant and seditious teachers, who (like the Masse Priests of old) call mightily on the people for their plate and money for their patrons and themselves? who, besides their daily Pulpit treasons, vent such other Divinity, as if *Luther* were living he would blush to call them Protestants: And if this be not cruelty, injustice, and tyranny, let God and posterity judge. Now for any loosenesse or incivility in our souldiers more then what is incident and common to great Armies, I wish they would not mention it, lest some impartiall readers, who know their courses, understand it to be meant by some of their great Reformers, who are that way as notoriously guilty as any: And for my self, I appeal to the consciences of those Lords and Gentlemen, who are my daily witnesses, and to those people wheresoever our Army hath been, what they know, or have observed in my carriage, which might not become one of my quality, and the son of a King. And whereas they slander us for *Popish Cavaliers*, I wish there were no more Papists in their Army then we have in ours; but to me tis no wonder with what face they can slander us for men disaffected

affected to the Protestant Religion, when as their grand Reformers refuse to come to Church. For His sacred Majesty I have been a frequent witness here in England (and all the world knows he never shewed himself otherwise) and therefore hold it to be my part and duty to tell them, that His Majesty is the most faithfull and best defender of the Protestant Religion of any Christian Prince in *Europe*, and is so accounted by all the Princes in Christendome. And what a gracious supporter hath he been in particular to the Queen of *Bohemia* (my vertuous Royall mother) and to the Prince Elector, my Royall brother, no man can be ignorant of: if therefore in common gratitude I do my utmost in defence of His Majesty, and that Cause whereof hee hath hitherto been so great and happy a patron; no ingenuous man but must think it most reasonable: And for my self, the world knows how deeply I have smarted, and what perils I have undergone for the Protestant cause, what stately large promises were offered me would I consent, and what a wretched close imprisonment was threatned, if I refused to change my Religion, when I was captive to the Emperour of *Germany*, enough to satisfie any man of moderation: But if it be not sufficient, I would to God all Englishmen were at union amongst themselves, then with what alacrity would I venture my life to serve this Kingdome against those cruell Popish Rebels in Ireland: for though I will never fight in any unrighteous quarrell, yet to defend the King, Religion and Lawes of a Kingdome against subjects, who are up in armes against their Lord and Sovereigne, and such (all good wise men know this and that of Ireland to be) though the pretence look severall waies; such a cause my conscience tells me is full of piety and justice: and if it please God to end my daies in it, I shall think my last breath spent with as much honour and religion, as if I were taken off my knees at my prayers. I think there is none that take me for a Coward; for sure I feare not the face of any man alive, yet I should repute it the greatest victory in the world to see His Majesty enter London in
peace,

(6)

peace, without shedding one drop of blood: where, I dare say
(God and His Majesty are witnesses I lye not) no Citizen
should be plundered of one penny or farthing, whereby that
ancient and famous City would manifestly perceive how de-
sperately it hath been abused by most strange, false and bot-
tomlesse untruths, for which some body (without repentance)
must be ashamed at the day of Judgement, if they escape a
condigne legall punishment in this world: I therefore con-
clude with this open profession (and I am confident our
whole Army will say *Amen* unto it) he that hath any designe
against the Protestant Religion, the Lawes of England, or
hopes to enrich himself by pillaging the City of London, let
him be accursed: And so, whether peace or warre, the Lord
prosper the work of their hands who stand for GOD and
King CHARLES.

1642

RUPERT.
